GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2719
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
PRODUCTION OF RUBBER
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural rubber and rubber products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year, till-date, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any policy to increase the production of natural rubber and for the welfare of rubber growers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The total quantity of natural rubber and rubber products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years and the current year,country-wise is given in the annexure.

(b) , (c) & (d) : In order to increase production of natural rubber, Government of India has formulated the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme and the Scheme for Rubber Development in the North East Region under which new planting, replanting of old and uneconomic holdings, productivity enhancement through adoption of scientific agro-management practices, generation of good quality planting materials, training of growers/workers in scientific harvesting of rubber trees, primary processing of latex into good quality sheet rubber etc. are envisaged.

For the benefit of the small growers, scientific agro-management practices will be demonstrated in farmer's fields. Assistance will also be given for adopting soil protection and water conservation measures, setting up of latex/sheet/scrap collection centres, Group Processing Centres (GPCs), apiculture units etc. will be supported through farmers' organisations like Rubber Producers' Societies (RPSs) and other Self Help Groups (SHGs).In addition to the existing 2200 RPSs, 750 RPSs/SHGs are to be formed during the XI plan period.15,000 bee-keeping units are to be established in rubber plantations as an additional income generation activity during XI plan period.